

REPORT ON THE CORYNDON MUSEUM.

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1ST TO JUNE 30TH, 1941.

(It is hoped in future to publish regular half-yearly reports on the activities in the Museum for the benefit of Members of the Society.)

On January 1st, 1941, Dr. V. G. L. van Someren resigned from his post as Director of the Museum and thus severed his long connection with the institution, which for many years now has been built up as a result of his activities. From the date of Dr. van Someren's resignation, the Museum has been in charge of Dr. L. S. B. Leakey in the capacity of Honorary Curator. The staff this year consists of Dr. D. G. MacInnes (who is on military duty and can only devote spare time to the work), Mr. P. R. O. Bally who is in charge of the botanical section and Mr. H. J. Allen Turner as assistant to the Honorary Curator.

During the six months under review considerable changes have been made in an attempt to achieve a better arrangement of the exhibits in the Main Hall. The whole of the bird collection has been completely rearranged and now the birds, instead of being in cases scattered about in different parts of the Hall, are all together. On either side of the door are the cases containing the game birds, while all the rest of the birds are in a line of cases in front of the habitat groups.

The mammals too have been rearranged and, with the exception of the lion and the group of antelope, are to be found along the West Wall of the Main Hall. The butterfly and insect exhibits, which were formerly in the West Gallery, are now arranged on the floor of the Main Hall in front of the mammals.

Previously the Archaeological Exhibits were placed in two cases on either side of the Staircase. These cases have now been moved to the West Gallery, the whole of which is devoted to Prehistoric Man. By this arrangement it has become possible to make a big increase in the amount of archaeological material exhibited and a really representative series is now shown.

The spaces on each side of the Staircase, where the Prehistoric Exhibits used to be, have now been devoted to collections of Fish, freshwater fish on the West side and sea fish on the East. The Fish Exhibits have been very considerably

increased in the last six months and an interesting and representative collection of both freshwater and marine forms is now on view.

The Botanical Room upstairs has been greatly improved by the hanging of some 70 very fine paintings of flowers by Mrs. Bally, wife of the Botanist.

The Museum has been very well-attended during the first six months of the year, the total number of visitors, apart from children and Members of the Society who enter free of charge, being 6,140. This is highly satisfactory and promises well for the future.

L. S. B. LEAKEY,
Honorary Curator.